

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DPW-01 IO-13 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /127 W

----- 110885

R 011400Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5923

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8924

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 8866

1. MEA SECRETARY, AVTAR SINGH, TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 1 THAT THERE WAS "SOME TRUTH" IN REPORT THAT INDIA WAS PLANNING TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING. WHEN CHARGE ASKED WHETHER DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON TIMING SINGH REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, EXPLAINING THAT WAS WHY HE HAD

USED WORD "SOME". THERE WERE STILL QUESTIONS TO BE WORKED OUT. CHARGE INQUIRED WHETHER THIS MEANT INDIA WAS SEEKING RECIPROCITY FROM CHINESE. SINGH REPLIED CHINESE HAD LEFT THEIR AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI FOR A YEAR AFTER INDIA HAD WITHDRAWN THEIRS. CONSEQUENTLY INDIANS WOULD NOT EXPECT CHINESE TO ASSIGN AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER INDIAN
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AMBASSADOR HAD ARRIVED IN PEKING.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD STORIES OVER THE PAST YEAR THAT THE INDIANS HAVE SOUNDED OUT THE CHINESE ON THIS. THE CHINESE REPORTEDLY HAVE RESPONDED THAT INDIA WOULD HAVE TO SEND ITS AMBASSADOR FIRST SINCE INDIA WAS THE FIRST TO WITHDRAW ITS AMBASSADOR IN 1962. THE INDIANS WERE READY TO FIX THIS PROVIDED THEY WERE ASSURED A CHINESE AMBASSADOR WOULD SHOW UP IN DELHI SHORTLY AFTER THEIR MAN GOT TO PEKING. THE INDIANS MAY NOW HAVE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD EVEN WITHOUT SUCH ASSURANCE. IT'S WORTH RECALLING THAT THE INDIANS WERE ON THE VERGE OF TAKING THIS STEP IN 1971 WHEN THE CONFLICT WITH PAKISTAN ENDED ANY IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH CHINA.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE08924
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SCHNEIDER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730865/aaaabvoc.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NEW DELHI 8866
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005